

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1653

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1092

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, RO

SUBJECT: PUNGAN CALL ON PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: BUCHAREST 1068

1. IN CONVERSATION LAST NIGHT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MACOUESCU I LEARNED CEAUSESCU NOW NOT DEPARTING ON AFRICN TRIP UNTIL NEXT TUESDAY. THEREFORE I AM SUBMITTING TODAY MY THOUGHTS ON POINTS PRESIDENT MIGHT MAKE IN HIS MEETING WITH PUNGAN ON FEB 23. I AM ASSUMING APPOINTMENT WILL BE RELATIVELY BRIEF AND THAT OCCASION DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO DETAILED EXAMINATION OF U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONSHIP.

2. I RECOMMEND PRESIDENT USE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL THEMES IN HIS REMAKRS:

A. ONE IMPORTANT REASON FOR EXISTING STATE OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ROMANIA HAS BEEN OUR ABILITY TO TALK STRAIGHT TO ONE ANOTHER. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE THAT PRACTICE.

B. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE SUPPORT OF ROMANIAN SOVERIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE.

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WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS THAT OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS AND ROMANIA'S ARE ALWAYS THE SAME. BUT WE ARE PLEDGED TO THE CONTINUATION OF A POLICY OF CO-OPERATION AND PROMOTION OF TIES OF MUTUAL BENEFIT TO BOTH COUNTRIES, BASED ON RESPECT AND REGARD FOR THE INTERESTS OF EACH PARTY.

C. WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE ANY SP 33 9\* 8,\*)73,:3  
8, 374903. OUR POLICY TOWARD ROMANIA WILL BE  
PREDICATED SOLELY ON A RECOGNITION OF THE UTUALITY  
OF OUR RESPECTIVE INTERESTS, NOT ON THE  
INTERESTS OF OTHERS.

D. WE ARE WELL AWARE OF PRESIDENT CEAESCU'S  
STRONG INTEREST IN DISARMAMENT PROBLEMS. PRESIDENT  
CEAUESCU SHOULD KNOW THERE IS NO ISSUE TO WHICH  
WE WILL GIVE GREATER PRIORITY THAN SEEKING MEANS  
OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL AND REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS.  
WE ARE COMMITTED TOO TO NATIONAL USE OF NUCLEAR  
POWER WHILE PREVENTING ITS PROLIFERATION FOR  
WEAPONS PURPOSES. WE HOPE THIS IS AN AREA WHERE  
U.S. AND ROMANIA CAN WORK TOGETHER.

E. THE UNITED STATES HAS A DEEP AND ABIDING COMMIT-  
MENT TO THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
OF ALLSNERSONS, IRRESPECTIVE OF GEOGRAPHIC  
POSITION OR POLITICAL SYSTEM. WE WILL NOT BE IN-  
DIFFERENT TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF ANY PEOPLES  
SEEKING DIGNITY AND JUSTICE.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN DEVELOPMENTS OF LAST SEVERAL  
MONTHS IN ROMANIAN-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP, I BEGZEVE  
CEAUESCU IS EAGER THAT HIS DIALOGUE AT  
PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL BE RESUMED SOON TO AVOID ANY  
U.S. MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHERE HE STANDS. EVENTS  
HERE OF PAST SEVERAL DAYS CULMINATING WITH  
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CEAUESCU'S SPEECH YESTERDAY IN WHICH HE CRACKED  
DOWN HARD ON BUDDING DISSIDENT MOVEMENT WILL GIVE  
ADDED MPETUS TO PUNGA'S MISSION TO OBTAIN  
FIRST HAND APPRAISAL OF NEW ADMINISTRATION'S  
ATTITUDES TOWARD ROMANIA. THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
ISSUE WILL BE AT THE CORE OF CEAUESCU'S CONCERN.  
TO DATE HIS POLICY TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS HAS  
ESSENTIALLY BEEN BASED ON A RELCTANT WILLINGNESS  
TO FACILITATE FAMILY REUNIFICATION, AND EVEN  
THAT ON A FAIRLY NARROW BASIS. HIS TOUGHNESS ON  
THIS ISSUE IS A REFLECTION BOTH OF HIS FEAR  
OF RISKING SOVIET INTERVENTION SHOULD HE LIBERAL-  
IZE HIS REGIME TOO MUCH AS WELL AS PERPETUATION  
OF HIS OWN POWE WHICH HE KEYS TO HIS BOOT STRAP  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY. I BELIEVE HE  
CORRECTLY ESTIMATES THAT THERE IS LITTLE DANGER OF  
THE ROMANIAN POPULATION REACTING TO HIS POLICE-  
STATE METHODS IN A FASHION SIMILAR TO THE POLES  
OR CZECHS OR HUNGARIANS. WHETHER HIS INDIFFERENCE

TO OUR VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS SUFFICIENTLY  
STRONG FOR HIM TO RISK JEOPARDIZING HIS CAREFULLY  
CULTIVATED RELATIONS WITH THE FORD AND NIXON  
ADMINISTRATIOI IS OF COURSE HIS DECISION TO MAKE.  
MY SOLE CONCERN AT THIS POINT IS THAT HE BE LEFT  
IN NO DOUBT AS TO WHERE WE STAND--NAMELY, THAT  
WE ARE NOT INDIFFERENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS  
AND HIS HANDLING OF THEM CAN HAVE AN EFFECT  
ON JUST HOW FAR OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS CAN BE  
DEVELOPED.  
BARNES

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, RO, US, (CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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